

# Pentagon Tells of Death In Mescaline Experiment

## Washington

A civilian mental patient died 23 years ago after being given a derivative of mescaline in an Army study of mind-altering drugs, the Pentagon disclosed yesterday.

The death of the man — who will not be identified until relatives are located — was the first disclosure of a fatality in military-sponsored testing on humans of such drugs, known as hallucinogens.

The man died about 11 months before the suicide of another man given LSD in tests for the CIA.

It was revealed recently that under testing sponsored by the Central Intelligence Agency, Frank Olson, a civilian army employee, jumped out of a window to his death Nov. 28, 1953, after being given LSD.

The man in the case revealed yesterday was described as a 42-year-old civilian who entered a mental institution voluntarily. It was not known if he had volunteered to participate in the drug tests or if the drug was given to him without his knowledge.

All that can be told at this time, said spokesman Joseph Laitin, is that the man was involved in a 29-day project conducted by the New York State Psychiatric Institute involving mescaline, a

hallucinogenic drug taken from the mescal cactus.

Laitin said an unsigned memo found in an old report on the man's death indicated the man died of a heart attack. A Pentagon statement said the man was given a derivative of mescaline four times with "mild or no effects on the patient."

"On the fifth test, in early January, 1953, the patient died, about 2½ hours after receiving an injection of a mescaline derivative," the Pentagon said.

The Pentagon said the death report was found in a manila envelope in a walk-in vault at Edgewood Arsenal, Md., by an Army representative checking on the Army's chemical research program.

It recently was disclosed that the Army had used LSD on volunteers.

Laitin said the manila envelope contained notes, carbon copies and "more questions than answers." He said the Army had let a contract with the New York institute "to determine the clinical effects of psychochemical agents on the psychiatric behavior of human subjects."

Notes in the file "indicate the drug was being used for diagnosis purposes," he said.

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